

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 12 and 17 were objected to. Claims 6-12, 14 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph. Claims 6-12, 14 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claims 6-12, 14, 18-20 and 31 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Ruschle et al. Claims 6-12, 14, 18-19 and 31 were rejected above under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobsen et al.

Support for the amendments to claim 6 are found in the specification at page 12, lines 10 through 17, as described with reference to Figure 4.

With regard to the objections raised in the Advisory Action of February 25, 2004, with respect to the angle measured, this physics angle can be measured, by reference to the first part of the gripper 11 where the contact surfaces 14 and 14' are formed. When the inner surface of the first gripper part 11 is examined, from the side which faces the tool shank which has to be gripped, one can see that a radius is formed at least in a semicircle. This radius can be referred to as a circumference for the first gripper part 11. On this circumference the contact surfaces 14 and 14' extend in a circumferential distance of approximately 60° to 90°.

A copy of Figure 4 is attached which has been marked up to include two angles α and β . The peripheral spacing α in this drawing is about 65°, which is in the interval of approximately 60°

to 90°. The peripheral angle β is approximately 30° as described in the specification and as set forth in claim 6.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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